

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

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DRC-01 FDRE-00 /149 W

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P R 081040Z JULY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8236

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MAIDUGURI - NDJAMENA GRAIN MOVEMENT

REF: NDJAMENA 1653

1. MINISTERS AHMAN OF TRANSPORT AND DJONOUMA OF TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT AND CTT REP. WERE SUMMONED JULY 6 BY MINISTER OF PLAN LAMANA TO MEETING HIS OFFICE ON SUBJECT OF MAIDUGURI BOTTLE-NECK. AADO NIXON AND I INVITED TO ATTEND. MEETING WAS TENSE AND HIGHLY CHARGED EXCHANGE OF ACCUSATIONS BY GOC AGAINST CTT AND ITS PERFORMANCE. ALL THREE MINISTERS ACCUSED CTT REP CAMEROUN HAGGAR OF CARRYING "PHANTOM" TRUCKS ON CTT ROLLS. DJONOUMA HIMSELF, IN FRUSTRATION, WALKED OUT BEFORE MEETING WAS OVER, SAYING HE WAS FINISHED WITH DROUGHT RELIEF ROLE.

2. CRUX OF PROBLEM IS THAT CTT IS LOOSE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TRUCKERS WHOSE MONOPLY IS PROTECTED BY GOC BUT OVER WHOM NEITHER CTT NOR GOC HAS ANY CONTROL. AT ITS MOST FORCEFUL CTT CAN ONLY INVITE TRUCKERS TO COOPERATE TO FULFILL ITS ENGAGE-
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MENTS TO GOC OR TO CUSTOMERS. IT ALSO HAS NO CURRENT INVENTORY OF TRUCKS IN OPERATING CONDITION. ANYXAMPLE WAS RECENT CTT AGREEMENT WITH MINTRANSPORT TO PUT 19 TANKERS INTO CONVOY TO KANO FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. IT TURNED OUT THAT CTT COULD FIND ONLY SIX AND COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHERE OTHERS MIGHT BE. AHMAN THINKS THEY DO NOT EXIST. CTT HAS CONSTANTLY PROMISED TO EVACUATE RELIEF SUPPLIES FROM GAROUA AND MAIDUGURI BUT HAS FAILED UTTERLY.

3. LAMANA AND AHMAN GAVE CTT UNTIL JULY 8 TO PRESENT FIRM PLAN TO ATTACK BACKLOG AT MAIDUGURI, FAILING WHICH HE IMPLIED POSSIBILITY OF REQUISITIONING TRUCKS. FOR OUR PART, WE SUGGESTED GOC AGREE TO OUR DIVERTING TO NIGER ALL CHAD GRAIN AT OR DUE NIGERIAN PORTS UNTIL MAIDUGURI STOCKPILE REDUCED. WE SAID WE BELIEVED BULK GRAIN SHIPS DUE TO ARRIVE LATE AUGUST FOR NIGER COULD BE SOURCES OF GRAIN NEEDED TO RESTORE TO CHAD ALL QUANTITIES DIVERTED TO NIGER.

4. FYI. WE WERE PREPARED INTRODUCE IDEA OF PRICE INCENTIVES BUT SUBJECT WAS PRE-EMPTED BY LAMANA WHO TOLD CTT REP. THAT RATE OF CFA 5700 ASSURED GOOD PROFIT MARGIN. END FYI.

5. WE WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS PROMPTLY. MEANWHILE, WE NEED TO KNOW HOW REMAINDER CHAD PROGRAM, INCLUDING RESTORATION BORROWED 2500 TONS, IS TO BE COMPLETED. ACCORDING OUR INFO THERE ARE 3400 TONS CHAD PROGRAM AT PORT HARCOURT. THIS AND 3,500 TONS DELTA PARAGUAY IS ALL WE KNOW FOR SURE ABOUT BALANCE OF CHAD 20,000-TON PROGRAM. WE ALSO NEED DEPT'S HELP IN IDENTIFYING CARGOS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE NIGERIA FOR NIGER PROGRAM FROM WHICH BORROWED TONNAGES COULD BE RESTORED TO CHAD. WE WOULD PREFER LATE AUGUST ARRIVALS. DECONTROL JULY 8, 1975.
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